

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1 1. A method for converting text to concatenated voice by  
2 utilizing a digital voice library and a set of playback rules, the digital voice library  
3 including a plurality of speech items and a corresponding plurality of voice  
4 recordings wherein each speech item corresponds to at least one available voice  
5 recording, the method comprising:  
6 receiving text data;  
7 expanding the text data to form a sequence of text and pseudo words;  
8 converting the sequence of text and pseudo words into a sequence of  
9 speech items in accordance with the digital voice library;  
10 converting the sequence of speech items into a sequence of voice  
11 recordings in accordance with the set of playback rules;  
12 generating voice data based on the sequence of voice recordings by  
13 concatenating adjacent recordings in the sequence of voice recordings.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1 wherein expanding the text data further  
2 comprises:  
3 searching the text data for an abbreviation; and  
4 expanding any abbreviation contained in the text data into at least one  
5 pseudo word.
- 1 3. The method of claim 1 wherein expanding the text data further  
2 comprises:  
3 searching the text data for a numerical suffix; and  
4 expanding any numerical suffix contained in the text data into at least  
5 one pseudo word.
- 1 4. The method of claim 1 wherein expanding the text data further  
2 comprises:  
3 searching the text data for a telephone number; and  
4 expanding any telephone number contained in the text data into at  
5 least one pseudo word.

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1 5. The method of claim 1 wherein expanding the text data further  
2 comprises:  
3 searching the text data for a number that includes a comma; and  
4 expanding any number that includes a comma contained in the text  
5 data into at least one pseudo word.

1 6. The method of claim 1 wherein expanding the text data further  
2 comprises:  
3 searching the text data for an Internet mail address; and  
4 expanding any Internet mail address contained in the text data into at  
5 least one pseudo word.

1 7. The method of claim 1 wherein expanding the text data further  
2 comprises:  
3 searching the text data for an Internet Universal Resource Locator;  
4 and  
5 expanding any Internet Universal Resource Locator in the text data  
6 into at least one pseudo word.

1 8. The method of claim 1 wherein the plurality of speech items  
2 includes a plurality of phrases, and wherein converting the sequence of text and  
3 pseudo words further comprises:  
4 parsing the sequence of text and pseudo words to determine any  
5 phrases.

1 9. The method of claim 8 wherein the plurality of speech items  
2 includes a plurality of words, and wherein converting the sequence of text and  
3 pseudo words further comprises:  
4 parsing the sequence of text and pseudo words to determine any  
5 words.

- 1                    10.    The method of claim 9 wherein the plurality of speech items  
2 includes a plurality of syllables, and wherein converting the sequence of text and  
3 pseudo words further comprising:  
4                    parsing the sequence of text and pseudo words to determine any  
5 syllables.

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